

BILL NYE TURNS ASTRONOMER.

A Robotic Comet Unworthy to Bear His Name.

Dr. Corner, proprietor of Corner's ne plus ultra kidney calmer, Jasperville, N. J. Dear Sir: I write to say that last night I was so fortunate as to discover a new comet for which you were kind enough to offer a prize of \$100 last year. As soon as I read your offer I immediately began to scan the heavens. I presume that there isn't a square foot of the whole sky that I haven't been over during that time in search of comets. In January, on the early morning of the second, I think, while going home, after assisting in the ceremonies of ushering in the new year, I discovered a comet of great magnitude, but on the following evening, when I attempted to put my hand on it and classify it and draw on you for the prize money, I found that it had evaded me. I now agree with my wife that it was an optical illusion of the first magnitude.

Last week, however, I succeeded in running down a large red comet which had never been used before. It was situated in the constellation of Cassiopeia about due west of the Methodist church as you look out of my barn door on a clear night.

Its appearance is that of a large nebulous body with a central condensation and no tail. This is the only drawback to my discovery. I am sorry to come to you with a tailless comet. After the long nights of anxiety and worry I desire to come to you, Doc, bringing a robotic comet. I will, therefore, throw off \$10 from the amount you offered. Send me postal note for \$90, Doc, and the comet is yours. You will find it where I have said if you are careful to observe my directions.

Had this comet been a success, with a tail to it, I would have been glad to bestow my name upon it, never having put my name on a comet; but I would prefer not to name a mutilated comet after myself. A man would too hard to win a dubious name to a comet that was never made. I have had wildcat mining claims named for me, and my brief but contiguous cognomen will be remembered and there through the American herd book; but when I plaster it on a heavenly body I want it to be attached to a good one.

I am on the eve of discovering another comet, however, to which I will not be ashamed to attach my name. I have only partially discovered it at this time, but as Harschel would not have named it, I got a brief view of this comet last night, but before I could secure it, name it and draw on you for the \$100 it was gone. As the bank will be closed to-night as a time of the discovery will no doubt be made, I have taken the liberty to draw on you to-day at sight. If I do not succeed in discovering the comet in time for June delivery I will return the money to you.

My first comet was discovered in the early evening. It is not a brilliant comet, but rather inferior in its appearance. Its motions, also, are erratic, and at times aimless. It has an elongated orbit, with a large hole in it. I hope that this will make no difference, however, as it is no fault of mine. I will agree that it shall not occur again.

I hope some day to discover a comet with a parabola to it. I have been the day before and dragged its parabola across the milky way. What prize do you offer for a comet with a parabola? Also, what will you give me for a small comet in good condition, with a perihelion to it?

I found a light comet last year, but had not completed the discovery and filed on it before it disappeared for the night. I learned the next day that it was a comet with a large orbit, and that it would not again return for 3,000 years. The discovery was a bona fide one, however, and if you will advance the amount of the prize, it will be of great pecuniary advantage to me, and if it does not return on time as I have said, I will refund the money to you. Your heirs with pleasure. This comet had a long, heavy mane and tail, and seemed to be feeling first rate. Its tail was turned from me when I discovered it, but when I looked at it again I saw that it was turned this way. When I next looked at it it was gone. Should any other astronomer find this comet and report it to you, I wish you would tell him that it belongs to me. It is about the medium height, is a good round star, and wears its tail at an angle of about forty-five degrees when in motion.

I would rather discover a comet for a livelihood than to do anything else, if it did not keep me from my family so much.

Do you prefer a comet with a nucleus, or can you use one with a parabolic hypothesis to better advantage? Could you use a poem in the presidential nuptials? I often write little poems of this character while waiting behind a tree for a comet to come down past the horizon. I also have a double-barrel shotgun in good order and the right to a small chestnut comet of about the tenth magnitude, both of which I would like to dispose of.

In answering this letter please pin the check to the upper left hand corner of your manuscript. Write plainly on one side only, with your indorsement on the other. I cannot promise to return manuscript. Please write as soon as possible and tell me whether you wish me to continue my discoveries or not.

Should there be anything I could do for you or for science, let me know and I will give you inside figures and cut rates on comets, microbes, or anything else in my line.

Please write your name and postoffice address plainly and tell the cashier to sign his name plainly at the bottom of the check.

Yours with a telescope in each eye and a comet cork screw in each hand—Bill Nye in Boston Globe.

Easier than a Political Job.
"Well, Pat, what are you doing now?"
"Shure, an' I play in the band anyhow."
"What instrument do you handle?"
"Faith, an' I bla the big drum."
"Isn't it pretty hard work?"
"Ah, no, it jist hold the drum up, an' an other feller dux all of the pounding."—De trout Free Press.

A Taking Example.

A Mes achus its splinter wires exit ingly: "Thank God for Grover Cleveland his example has aroused the manhood of Massachusetts. Last evening I received my first offer of marriage."—Albany Evening Journal.

The motions of a man with a bug in his ear are slow compared with those of a man who has driven ten miles to a trout stream and forgotten to take his fly box.—Darius Breza.

The landlord of the vessel, he say do there was a big hole in der low of der boat, and dat vasser comed in. I told him to cut a hole in der stern and let der vasser go out.—Pretzel's Weekly.

ANCIENT HISTORY REVISED.

How Cincinnati Received the News of His Election.

When the Roman senate elected Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus consul by a handsome plurality, notwithstanding the Tammany defection and the fact that a Prohibition candidate was sprung on them at the last moment, they appointed a committee to visit the noble Roman on his farm and announce to him his election.

They found him engaged in doing his spring plowing. As they approached with all the dignity they could command while stumbling across plowed land in their long togas, he stopped his oxen to ascertain who they were and what they wanted.

"Most noble Roman," said the chairman of the committee, in that deep sonorous tone suited to the occasion, "we are here—"



"So I see," said Lucius Quintus, eying them suspiciously. "at I signed a contract for some of those patent beehives last summer and found it was a note for \$500 that I had to pay at the bank. You can't play the green game on me twice."

"You mistake our mission altogether," said the chairman, with offended dignity, "we are—"

"Lightning rod men, perhaps. But I don't want any lightning rods, nuther."

"Deign, most noble Cincinnatus, to give me your attention for a few brief moments?"

"Well, hurry up, I'm busy, and make it short, for I'm busy, a mule's tail in fly time," and he sat down on his plow beam, fanning himself with an old straw hat.

"The republic is in danger," he began, reading from a long roll of MSS. that he produced.

"That sounds sort of familiar. 'Nuther 'lection comin' on, I reckon. You're goin' to sound the tocsin, ain't ye? And mebbe you'll wave the bloody shirt."

"The Roman senate, realizing the exigency of the situation, has elected you."

"If there isn't that pesky coat in my garden patch again," cried Cincinnatus, springing to his feet. "W-h-o-a, there! Git out of that!" he yelled, as he grasped his ox and started across the field to drive them out.

When he returned he was perspiring and swearing like a Roman trooper. "Blankety blank them blank coats," he cried, "they'll jump any fence that was ever made. Say, you fellows, you don't happen to know a poke that'll keep coats from jumpin', do ye?"

"The city which Romulus founded," said the chairman, scarcely heeding the interruption, "is threatened by the barbarians. The valor of Roman arms, that, under Marcus Horatius subdued the Sabines and submitted the Claudii to the yoke, is paralyzed for want of a leader."

"Now you paralyze me."

"In casting about for a competent commander, every way adequate to the emergency that has overtaken us, the eyes of the senate have turned toward you."

"Shaw! you don't say!"

"Your steadfast championship of the rights of labor, your position on the silver question, your uncompromising opposition to the Chinese, your refusal to avail yourself of the franking privilege, and your scornful rejection of a railroad pass while a member of your town council, the countenance that you gave to the early closing movement, your defiance of Canada on the fishery question, your—"

"Come now, boys, let up!"

"Your services as a volunteer fireman, the ability you displayed as captain of a militia company, your having never written communications to the papers, or shown yourself in an open hack in Decoration day processions, your never sending proof slips of your speeches to the daily journals, never making a false return to the tax assessor, or wearing pointed-toe shoes, or parting your hair in the middle, or crying 'chestnut!'" and, above all, your invariable habit of going to the polls and voting the old ticket without a scratch, have induced the senate to call you to the highest office in their gift, the Roman consulship!"

Cincinnatus was so overcome by this time that he could only press the speaker's hand silently any lead the way to the house, or where he tapped a fresh barrel of cider and invited them all to join him in a dance.

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To all

HAWAIIANS and FRIENDS

—OF—

HAWAII NEE!

The undersigned gives notice that he will be in attendance at the Palace grounds from this date to the 15th day of November, to receive the gifts of all who wish to express their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty King Kalakaua, on the occasion of the

Celebration

—OF—

His Majesty's 50th Birthday.

The articles presented will be duly registered and cared for as the free-will gifts of a loving people to their King, in accordance with the custom of our country; and it is requested that they may be given in charge of the undersigned at as early a date as possible.</